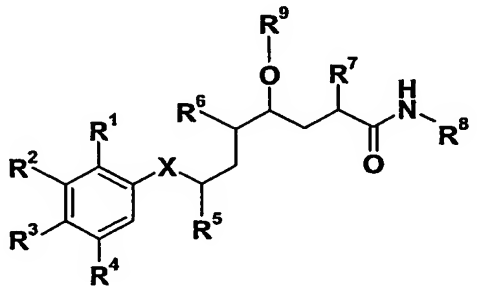
What is claimed is

1. A compound of formula (I)



(I),

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; wherein

R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, independently of one another, are hydrogen; halogen; hydroxyl, C_1-C_7-alkanoyloxy, C_1-C_7-alkyl; or is

C_1-C_7-alkyl that is substituted by: halogen, cyano, hydroxy, C_1-C_7-alkanoyl-oxy, C_1-C_7-alkoxy, C_1-C_7-alkoxy that is substituted by halogen or by hydroxyl, C_2-C_7-alkenyloxy, C_3-C_7-cycloalkoxy, C_1-C_7-alkylthio, S-oxidized C_1-C_7-alkylthio, amino, N-mono-C_1-C_7-alkylamino, N,N-di-C_1-C_7-alkyl-amino, N-C_1-C_7-alkanoyl-amino, N-C_1-C_7-alkanesulfonyl-amino, amino that is N,N-disubstituted by C_2-C_7-alkylene, by unsubstituted or N'-C_1-C_7-alkyl- or N'-C_1-C_7-alkanoyl-aza-C_2-C_7-alkylene, by oxa-C_1-C_7-alkylene, by thia-C_1-C_7-alkylene or by S-oxidized thia-C_1-C_7-alkylene, free or esterified or amidated carboxy, C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, hydrogenated heteroaryl or by oxo; or is

C_1-C_7-alkoxy-C_2-C_7-alkenyl; or C_1-C_7-alkoxy; or is

C_1-C_7-alkoxy that is substituted by: halogen, cyano, hydroxyl, C_1-C_7-alkanoyl-oxy, C_1-C_7-alkoxy, C_1-C_7-alkoxy that is substituted by halogen or by hydroxy, C_2-C_7-alkenyloxy, C_3-C_7-cycloalkoxy, C_1-C_7-alkylthio, S-oxidized C_1-C_7-alkylthio, amino, N-mono-C_1-C_7-alkylamino, N,N-di-C_1-C_7-alkyl-amino, N-C_1-C_7-alkanoyl-amino, N-C_1-C_7-alkanesulfonyl-amino, amino that is N,N-disubstituted by C_2-C_7-alkylene, by unsubstituted or N'-C_1-C_7-alkyl- or N'-C_1-C_7-alkanoyl-aza-C_2-C_7-alkylene, by oxa-C_1-C_7-alkylene, by thia-C_1-C_7-alkylene or by S-oxidized thia-C_1-C_7-alkylene, free or esterified or amidated carboxy, C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, or by hydrogenated heteroaryl; or is

C_2-C_7-alkenyloxy; C_1-C_7-alkoxy-C_2-C_7-alkenyloxy; C_3-C_7-cycloalkoxy; C_1-C_7-alkanoyl; C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; or hydrogenated heteroaryl; or

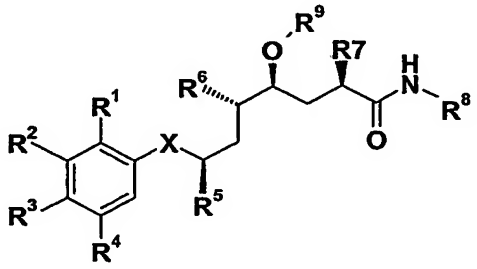
R^3 together with R_4 form C_2-C_7-alkylenedioxy or a fused-on benzo or cyclohexeno ring;

X is methylene; hydroxymethylene; O; NH; S; SO; or SO_2;
R^5 is C_1-C_7-alkyl; C_2-C_7-alkenyl; C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl; C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl-C_1-C_7-alkyl; aryl-C_1-C_7-alkyl; heteroaryl-C_1-C_7-alkyl; aryl or heteroaryl;
R^6 is amino; N-mono-C_1-C_7-amino; N,N-di-C_1-C_7-amino; N-C_1-C_7-alkanoyl-amino; N-C_1-C_7-alkanesulfonyl or represents a group of the formula $-NR^{10}COCHR^{11}NR^{12}R^{13}$, the latter may be present either in the (D)-, (L)- or racemic (D, L)-configuration, but preferably in the L-form;
R^7 is C_1-C_7-alkyl, C_2-C_7-alkenyl; C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl; C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl-C_1-C_7-alkyl; aryl-C_1-C_7-alkyl; heteroaryl-C_1-C_7-alkyl; aryl or heteroaryl;
R^8 is hydrogen; C_1-C_7-alkyl; or is
C_1-C_7-alkyl that is substituted by: halogen, cyano, hydroxy, C_1-C_7-alkanoyl-oxy, C_1-C_7-alkoxy, C_1-C_7-alkoxy that is substituted by halogen or by hydroxyl, C_2-C_7-alkenyloxy, C_3-C_7-cycloalkoxy, C_1-C_7-alkylthio, S-oxidized C_1-C_7-alkylthio, amino, N-mono-C_1-C_7-alkylamino, N,N-di-C_1-C_7-alkyl-amino, N-C_1-C_7-alkanoyl-amino, N-C_1-C_7-alkanesulfonyl-amino, amino that is N,N-disubstituted by C_2-C_7-alkylene, by unsubstituted or N'-C_1-C_7-alkyl- or N'-C_1-C_7-alkanoyl-aza-C_2-C_7-alkylene, by oxa-C_1-C_7-alkylene, by thia-C_1-C_7-alkylene or by S-oxidized thia-C_1-C_7-alkylene, free or esterified or amidated carboxy, or is
C_1-C_7-alkanoyl; C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, hydrogenated heteroaryl; C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl or hydrogenated heteroaryl;
R^9 represents C_1-C_7-alkanoyl, C_1-C_7-alkanesulfonyl or a group of the formula $-COCHR^{14}NR^{11}R^{12}$ which may be present either in the (D)-, (L)- or racemic (D, L)-configuration, but preferably in the L-form; or a group of the formula $-CH_2O$-COR^{15};
R^{10} is hydrogen; C_1-C_7-alkyl; C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl; C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl-C_1-C_7-alkyl; aryl-C_1-C_7-alkyl; heteroaryl-C_1-C_7-alkyl; aryl or heteroaryl;
R^{11} is hydrogen; C_1-C_7-alkyl; aryl-C_1-C_7-alkyl; heteroaryl-C_1-C_7-alkyl; aryl or heteroaryl;
R^{12} and R^{13}, independently of another, are hydrogen; C_1-C_7-alkyl;
C_1-C_7-alkyl that is substituted by: halogen, C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, C_1-C_7-alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_7-alkylthio, by S-oxidized C_1-C_7-alkylthio, by aminocarbonyl, by N-C_1-C_7-alkanoyl-aminocarbonyl, by N-C_1-C_7-alkyl-aminocarbonyl; by N,N-di-C_1-C_7-alkyl-aminocarbonyl, or by aminocarbonyl that is disubstituted by C_2-C_7-alkylene; or are
C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl; aryl or heteroaryl;
R^{14} is hydrogen; C_1-C_7-alkyl; aryl-C_1-C_7-alkyl; heteroaryl-C_1-C_7-alkyl; aryl or heteroaryl; and
R^{15} is C_1-C_7-alkyl, aryl-C_1-C_7-alkyl; heteroaryl-C_1-C_7-alkyl; aryl or heteroaryl.

2. A compound according to claim 1 of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; wherein

R^1 is hydrogen, C_1-C_7-alkyl or C_1-C_7-alkoxy; R^2 is C_1-C_7-alkoxy or C_1-C_7-alkoxy-C_1-C_7-alkoxy; R^3 is C_1-C_7-alkoxy or C_1-C_7-alkoxy-C_1-C_7-alkoxy; R^4 is hydrogen, C_1-C_7-alkyl or C_1-C_7-alkoxy; R^5 is C_1-C_7-alkyl; R^6 is amino; R^7 is C_1-C_7-alkyl; R^8 is amino-carbonyl-C_1-C_7-alkyl; R^9 is C_1-C_7-alkanoyl, a group of the formula $-COCHR^{14}NR^{11}R^{12}$ which may be present either in the (D)-, (L)- or racemic (D, L)-configuration, but preferably in the L-form; or a group of the formula $-CH_2O-COR^{15}$; and R^{14} is hydrogen, C_1-C_7-alkyl or phenyl-C_1-C_4-alkyl; R^{12} and R^{13}, independently of one another, are hydrogen, C_1-C_7-alkyl or phenyl-C_1-C_4-alkyl; and R^{15} is C_1-C_7-alkyl or phenyl-C_1-C_4-alkyl; and **X** is methylene.

3. A compound according to claim 1 or 2 of formula (I A)



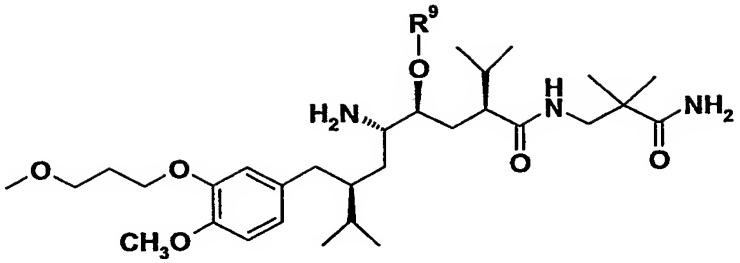
(I A),

wherein the variables R^1 to R^{15} and **X** have all meanings as defined in claim 1 or 2; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3 of formula (I A) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

R^1 and R^4 are hydrogen; R^2 is C_1-C_4-alkoxyl- C_1-C_4-alkoxy, such as 3-methoxy-propyloxy; R^3 is C_1-C_4-alkoxy, such as methoxy; R^5 and R^7, independently of one another, are C_1-C_7-alkyl, such as isopropyl; R^6 is amino; R^8 is aminocarbonyl-C_1-C_4-alkyl, such as 2-amino-2,2-dimethylethyl; R^9 is C_1-C_4-alkanoyl or a group of the formula $-COCHR^{14}NR^{12}R^{13}$ wherein R^{14} is C_1-C_4-alkyl, such as isopropyl or isobutyl, or phenyl-C_1-C_2-alkyl, such as benzyl, R^{12} and R^{13} are hydrogen and **X** is methylene.

5. A compound according to claim 4 of formula (I B) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein



(I B),

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^9 is C_1-C_4-alkanoyl or a group of the formula $-COCHR^{14}NH_2$ wherein R^{14} is C_1-C_4-alkyl, such as isopropyl or isobutyl, or phenyl-C_1-C_2-alkyl, such as benzyl.

6. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof selected from the group consisting of
acetic acid (1S,2S,4S)-2-amino-1-[(S)-2-(2-carbamoyl-2-methyl-propylcarbamoyl)-3-methyl-butyl]-4-[4-methoxy-3-(3-methoxy-propoxy)-benzyl]-5-methyl-hexyl ester;
propionic acid (1S,2S,4S)-2-amino-1-[(S)-2-(2-carbamoyl-2-methyl-propylcarbamoyl)-3-methyl-butyl]-4-[4-methoxy-3-(3-methoxy-propoxy)-benzyl]-5-methyl-hexyl ester;
butyric acid (1S,2S,4S)-2-amino-1-[(S)-2-(2-carbamoyl-2-methyl-propylcarbamoyl)-3-methyl-butyl]-4-[4-methoxy-3-(3-methoxy-propoxy)-benzyl]-5-methyl-hexyl ester;
isobutyric acid (1S,2S,4S)-2-amino-1-[(S)-2-(2-carbamoyl-2-methyl-propylcarbamoyl)-3-methyl-butyl]-4-[4-methoxy-3-(3-methoxy-propoxy)-benzyl]-5-methyl-hexyl ester;M
2,2-dimethyl-propionic acid (1S,2S,4S)-2-amino-1-[(S)-2-(2-carbamoyl-2-methyl-propylcarbamoyl)-3-methyl-butyl]-4-[4-methoxy-3-(3-methoxy-propoxy)-benzyl]-5-methyl-hexyl ester;
(S)-2-amino-3-methyl-butyric acid (1S,2S,4S)-2-amino-1-[(S)-2-(2-carbamoyl-2-methyl-propylcarbamoyl)-3-methyl-butyl]-4-[4-methoxy-3-(3-methoxy-propoxy)-benzyl]-5-methyl-hexyl Ester;
(S)-2-amino-4-methyl-pentanoic acid (1S,2S,4S)-2-amino-1-[(S)-2-(2-carbamoyl-2-methyl-propylcarbamoyl)-3-methyl-butyl]-4-[4-methoxy-3-(3-methoxy-propoxy)-benzyl]-5-methyl-hexyl ester; and
(S)-2-amino-3-phenyl-propionic acid (1S,2S,4S)-2-amino-1-[(S)-2-(2-carbamoyl-2-methyl-propylcarbamoyl)-3-methyl-butyl]-4-[4-methoxy-3-(3-methoxy-propoxy)-benzyl]-5-methyl-hexyl ester.

7. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 for the treatment of the animal and human body.

8. Use of a compound according to anyone of claims 1 to 7 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of or prevention of or delay of progression to overt hypertension, congestive heart failure, cardiac hypertrophy, cardiac fibrosis, cardiomyopathy, postinfarction, (acute and chronic) renal failure, complications resulting from diabetes, such as nephropathy, vasculopathy and neuropathy, diseases of the coronary vessels, restenosis following angioplasty, raised intra-ocular pressure, glaucoma, abnormal vascular growth, hyperaldosteronism, anxiety states and cognitive disorders.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 8 and a carried.

10. A composition according to claim 9 further comprising at least one therapeutic agent selected from the group consisting of

(i) an AT_1-receptor antagonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

(ii) an angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

(iii) a beta blocker or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

(iv) a calcium channel blocker or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

(v) an aldosterone synthase inhibitor or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

(vi) an aldosterone receptor antagonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

(vii) a dual angiotensin converting enzyme/neutral endopetidase (ACE/NEP) inhibitor or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

(viii) an endothelin receptor antagonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

(ix) a diuretic or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

(x) a neutral endopeptidase (NEP) inhibitor or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

(xi) an inhibitors of the Na-K-ATPase membrane pump or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

(xii) an antidiabetic agent or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

(xiii) a hypolipidemic agent or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and

(xiv) an anti-obesity agent or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.